

Remarks

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on September 8, 2005. Claims 1-27 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-27 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,754,612. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

Attached at the Appendix hereto is a terminal disclaimer addressing this rejection. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-27 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,873,934. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

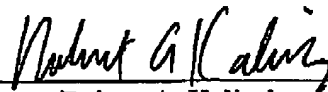
Attached at the Appendix hereto is a terminal disclaimer addressing this rejection. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The remarks set forth above provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: November 1, 2005


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Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

Attached hereto are two terminal disclaimers (4 pages total).